

Carl Wittwer



In a conversation a few years ago, Dr. Wittwer's father noted that - like many people in this room - Carl was always disassembling electronic devices like the family television when he was a preteen. What made Carl unusual, however, was that the devices always worked after he had reassembled them! Even better, he grew up to receive both an M.D. and a Ph.D., join the faculty of the Department of Pathology at the University of Utah in 1988, and become a leader in the translation of molecular biology into the practice of laboratory medicine. Professor Wittwer's research with polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology gave the field of molecular diagnostics rapid PCR - cutting processing times from 4 hours to 20 minutes.

Taking this technology into the commercial arena, Dr. Wittwer was a cofounder of Idaho Technology, which has developed award-winning and successful PCR products for DNA analysis, and remains its Chief Science Officer. He also helped establish the Clinical Molecular Pathology Laboratory at ARUP Laboratories in the early 90's, and currently serves as Vice President for New Technologies at ARUP. Honored with awards for both his medical research and for his exceptional teaching abilities, Carl is particularly known for the gift of being able to explain complex ideas in a simple and straightforward manner.